

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A compression fitting for rigid or semi-rigid pipes composed of metal, rigid plastic material, or metal-plastic multi-layer, the compression fitting comprising:

an internal element onto which a pipe having a pipe wall is fitted, said internal element having a plurality of axially spaced circumferential grooves, wherein a bottom of each groove
5 defines a seat in which an elastic seal ring gasket is positioned, said internal element having an external surface;

an external sleeve having a substantially cylindrical shape with a cylindrical inner surface and an external surface for positioning around a portion of pipe fitted on the internal element and for radial compression such that said external sleeve deforms the pipe, whereby the pipe
10 wall adheres to the bottom of the grooves, wherein the width of each of said grooves is greater than the thickness of the pipe wall and maximum depth of each of said grooves is equal to at least a quarter of the thickness of the pipe wall, said external surface of the external sleeve comprising circumferential protruding beads, each of said beads being aligned with each groove of said internal element with the pipe wall located between said internal element and said
15 external sleeve, the width of each of said beads being less than the width of each of the grooves of the internal element and the height of each of said beads being at least equal to the depth of each of the grooves, each of said beads receiving radial compression via a cylindrical wall such that each of said beads deforms the external sleeve with respect to its cylindrical shape, whereby portions of said cylindrical inner surface of said ~~internal element~~ external sleeve has a reduced
20 internal diameter, said cylindrical inner surface of said external sleeve and said external surface

of said internal element being in contact with the pipe, said external sleeve radially deforming the pipe wall to penetrate said grooves such that thickness of said pipe wall is not substantially reduced.

2. (Previously Presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein the height of the bead is between 1 and 1.5 times the depth of the groove.

3. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 1, wherein the width of the groove is about 1.5 times the thickness of the pipe.

4. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 1, wherein a plurality of grooves are axially spaced along the internal element.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 1, wherein axial holding means of the extremity of the sleeve with the internal element are provided, to identify their mutual positioning.

7. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 1, wherein the height of said bead is 1.3 times the depth of the groove.

8 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for producing compression fittings, the method comprising:

providing an internal element having an external surface, said external surface defining
5 at least one circumferential groove, said groove having a defined center point;

connecting a pipe to said internal element, said pipe having a defined pipe wall;

connecting an external sleeve to said pipe, said external sleeve having a defined inner
cylindrical surface and a defined external cylindrical surface, said pipe being arranged between
said inner cylindrical surface of said external sleeve and said external surface of said internal
10 element, said pipe engaging said inner cylindrical surface of said external sleeve and said
external surface of said internal element, said external cylindrical surface of said external sleeve
defining a circumferential protruding bead, said bead being located opposite said groove such
that said bead is aligned with said center point of said groove, in an area corresponding with
said groove, width of said groove being greater than thickness of said pipe wall, said groove
15 having a maximum depth at least equal to a quarter of the thickness of said pipe wall, width of
said bead being less than width of said groove, height of said bead being at least equal to the
depth of said groove;

compressing said bead such that said external sleeve is deformed, whereby a portion of
said cylindrical surface of said external sleeve deforms said pipe wall, said pipe wall engaging
20 said groove to connect said pipe to said internal element.

16. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 15, wherein a portion of said external sleeve engages said internal element.

17. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 15, wherein the height of the bead is between 1 and 1.5 times the depth of the groove.

18. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 15, wherein the width of the groove is about 1.5 times the thickness of the pipe.

19. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 15, wherein a plurality of grooves are axially spaced along the internal element.

20. (Previously Presented) A fitting in accordance with claim 15, wherein a seat is made at the bottom of the groove, in which an elastic seal ring gasket is positioned.